

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1                    1.        A footwear mold, the footwear mold comprising:  
2                    a footwear form, wherein the footwear form includes a location mark  
3 corresponding to a location of a strap rivet.
- 1                    2.        The footwear mold of claim 1, wherein the footwear form is an inner  
2 portion of the footwear mold.
- 1                    3.        The footwear mold of claim 2, wherein the footwear mold further  
2 comprises:  
3                    an upper portion and a lower portion, wherein the upper portion and the lower  
4 portion substantially encompass the footwear form.
- 1                    4.        The footwear mold of claim 3, wherein at least the upper portion  
2 includes a material inlet.
- 1                    5.        The footwear mold of claim 3, wherein the footwear form is suspended  
2 from the interior of the upper portion.
- 1                    6.        The footwear mold of claim 1, wherein the location marked extends  
2 from the footwear form and is operable to reduce material forming a finished footwear piece  
3 at the location of the strap.
- 1                    7.        The footwear mold of claim 1, wherein the location marked extends  
2 into the footwear form and is operable to increase material forming a finished footwear piece  
3 at the location of the strap.
- 1                    8.        The footwear mold of claim 1, wherein the location mark further  
2 includes a halo section that roughly corresponds to the size of a rivet head upon expansion of  
3 a material forming an expanded footwear piece.
- 1                    9.        A method for manufacturing a footwear mold, the method comprising:  
2                    forming a location mark in a footwear form, wherein the footwear form is an  
3 inner portion of a three piece mold.

1                   10.     The method of claim 9, wherein the location mark extends from the  
2 footwear form and is operable to reduce material forming a finished footwear piece at the  
3 location of the strap.

1                   11.     The method of claim 9, wherein the location mark extends into the  
2 footwear form and is operable to increase material forming a finished footwear piece at the  
3 location of the strap.

1                   12.     The method of claim 9, wherein the location mark includes a halo, and  
2 wherein the method further comprises:

3                   locating an outer edge of the halo approximately even with a pattern  
4 corresponding to an inner wall of a footwear piece.

1                   13.     The method of claim 12, wherein the outer edge of the halo is set-off  
2 approximately one sixteenth inch from an edge of the footwear piece after expansion of the  
3 footwear piece.

1                   14.     A piece of footwear comprising:

2                   a sole;

3                   an upper portion extending from the sole, wherein the upper portion is adapted to  
4 cover the top of a user's foot, and wherein the upper portion includes a rear opening for  
5 receiving the user's foot;

6                   at least one connector coupled to the upper portion;

7                   a strap operably coupled to the upper portion, wherein the strap is configured to be  
8 positioned across the rear opening to engage the back of the user's foot;

9                   at least one adjustment mechanism that is interactable with the connector and the strap  
10 to adjust the position of the strap relative to the back of the user's foot.

1                   15.     A piece of footwear as in claim 14, wherein the connector comprises a  
2 loop that is pivotally coupled to the upper portion.

1                   16.     A piece of footwear as in claim 15, wherein the adjustment mechanism  
2 comprises a strip of material having one end coupled to the strap and a free end that is  
3 configured to pass through the loop.

1                    17.     A piece of footwear as in claim 16, wherein the adjustment mechanism  
2 further comprises a coupling arrangement to couple the free end of the strip of material to the  
3 strap.

1                    18.     A piece of footwear as in claim 17, wherein the coupling arrangement  
2 comprises a plurality of snaps.

1                    19.     A piece of footwear as in claim 17, wherein the coupling arrangement  
2 comprises a hook and loop fastener material.

1                    20.     A piece of footwear as in claim 14, wherein the at least one connector  
2 comprises a pair of connectors coupled to opposite sides of the rear opening, and wherein the  
3 at least one adjustment mechanisms comprises a pair of adjustment mechanisms that are  
4 interactable with the pair of connectors.

1                    21.     A piece of footwear as in claim 14, wherein the strap is pivotally  
2 connected to the upper portion.